

GUARDIANS, TEACH LENS!

I want to talk to you about the gift of the secular man or the secular woman as a LENS pedagogue. More directly, it is my assignment to show you why it is imperative that each of you becomes a LENS pedagogue as soon as possible.

The demand for your talent was demonstrated this morning in the outline we were given that shows where the Seminars will be held this quarter. Our experience during the last six months suggests that marketing this Seminar, finally, is like selling "booze" to an alcoholic. It is only a matter of time before it snowballs to the extent that we will need substantially more than a few of us to be LENS teachers.

I have four reasons why you are needed as a LENS pedagogue instead of "that other group." I have a personal motive here, because I am a member of that "other group."

I do not intend to play any games this afternoon. I learned a long time ago in the practice of trial law that to talk in terms of tangential indicatives is likely to lead to unnecessary confusion and misunderstandings. You may find a misguided judge or distracted juror who just does not understand the tangential indicative statement. There is only one way to deal with people like that: with a head-on imperative. If you reject the imperative I am about to lay down, I want you to go through life feeling guilty.

For those of you who take notes, I am going to give you four reasons why it is imperative, not indicative, for you to become LENS teachers. Each of the four has three subpoints. And I hope to finish in eight minutes.

First of all, you must become LENS pedagogues because you symbolize the Resurgent Religious. Second, you must because you are In, But Not Of, the Symbolic Order. Third, you must because you are the Earth Shakers. And finally, you must because you are the Trojan Horses. Now, I am going back to point one.

Resurgent Religious: Last night, Joe Mathews defined the religious in the only way I have ever heard that I can accept. The religious is the person who is (1) concerned for the total world, (2) concerned that life be meaningful, and (3) concerned for the fulfillment of all men. For me, that defines what I would like to call the Resurgent Religious of the 20th Century. You are the vanguards of the Resurgent Religious. You have seen everything twice and done everything once. You are as aware as I am of that very often the so-called secular businessman is, when you get right down to it, no different from many so-called religious religious who may be in the Symbolic Order.

The secular-religious may be the president of A.T.&T. or he may be a cab driver, or he may even be in the Symbolic Order. And, as Joe suggested last night, he may be a Hindu, a Moslem, a Jew or a Christian, or a member of the other religious organizations of the world. In one course we taught we had a

German Catholic, a Japanese Buddhist, and representatives of four Protestant denominations. Each of these people is the Resurgent Religious. That is what you are and that is the reason why you, as the vanguard of the 20th Century Resurgent Religious must participate as LENS pedagogues.

In But Not of: Secondly, you are in but not of, the Symbolic Order, as the committed, but detached ones. You are the demanding conscience of the Symbolic Order. Or, to put it another way, it is up to you to keep these people honest.

Two weeks ago, we had a planning meeting here, as we do every weekend, and someone pointed out that a certain LENS Seminar was going to consist entirely of Movement people. The question was raised whether we should use different "language" in a "Movement" seminar, than you would with ordinary people. My rather violent response was, "Hell, no!" Just because we have some Movement people out in the "boondocks" does not mean they are excused from learning de-jargonized secular English. That goes for Symbolic Order people as well. You are the ones who finally have to say the radical "yes" and the radical "no" as the loyal, loving opposition to the Order members.

You are also the Earth Shakers, insofar as you translate the Spirit Movement to the world. We all stand as the great God Janus, facing both worlds. Your presence in a LENS seminar serves at least two purposes. It gives authenticity to LENS and to the ICA and it frees the secular man to participate in a course he might otherwise think has some religious bent. You are members of the only viable international network now in existence, and I am excluding the Church when I make that statement. You are part of the international network that now exists as the economic community and I suggest to you that if world government ever comes into being, it is certainly going to come out of the demands of the economic.

You are the secular gurus. You will be the guild leaders and trainers for the next 20 years. Your style is critical. You are the pragmatic intellectuals, the social implementers of the 20th Century. Whether you want to be or not, you are the Earth Shakers of the world. And, as such, I suggest you have an obligation to participate in LENS pedagogy.

Finally, you are the Trojan Horses. You remember the Trojans woke up one morning and a gigantic horse was just standing there--a sort of mysterious presence. Remember what happened when the soldiers piled out of that horse? I suggest that you are the same kind of mysterious presence in the secular world. You play hidden roles that enable you to participate this week-end, and then go back to the old "sausage-grinder" on Monday. You are the strike-force of society's practical visioners. You are the signs of a new man in a new world who sees the new day.

Then, apart from all those reasons, participation in LENS pedagogy, for me, has been one of the most exhilarating, exciting, frustrating, fun experiences, I have had in my several years of living. LENS is not a course, it's not a seminar, it's a happening.

The team that went to Northeast Asia last spring had a great time. We saw that LENS was a happening rather than a course. In Kobe, we had a German participant who, for the last 25 years has been trying to overcome the guilt he feels as a member of the German nation because of its role in World War II.

He said, "we were forced to sing in school; we were forced to sing in the Army. I decided nobody was ever going to force me to sing again. It was your seminar that freed me to participate in group singing after 25 years."

In Tokyo, a Japanese college coed sat through the seminar with a Japanese-English dictionary in a frantic effort to keep pace with the course, or the happening, if you please. Also in Tokyo, a Japanese businessman came up and borrowed the book, The Ronin, after each reading so he could read the chapter. He explained that he understood written English better than spoken English.

In Guam, while the apologue was being read, a Phase Three college professor literally sat at his table with tears streaming down his face because of the impact of the apologue. LENS is a happening.

So, as the Resurgent Religious; as those who are In, But Not Of, the Symbolic Order; as the Earth Shakers; as the Trojan Horses of this world; you can, through LENS teaching, have the possibility of speaking with the authority of your whole being.

--George W. McBurney